

Maryland Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force
February 22, 2019
Governor's Reception Room
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order

Lieutenant Governor Rutherford called to order the first meeting of the Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force at 11:00AM on February 22, 2019 in the Governor's Reception Room.

II. Roll Call/Attendees

Task Force Members: Lt. Governor Rutherford, Secretary Ken Holt, Secretary Kelly Schulz, Secretary Rob McCord, Assistant Secretary Sean Powell, Secretary Lourdes Padilla, Secretary James Fielder, Phil Hutson, Thomas Sadowski, Dannielle Glaros, Robert Brennan, Charlene Dukes

Designees: Deputy Secretary David McGlone- DLLR, Sylvia Lawson- MDE

Presenter: Christopher Shank

Supporters: Deputy Chief of Staff Tiffany Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff Allison Mayer, Meredith Wimbrow, Katherine Janotta

Absent: George Davis, Jake Romanell

III. New business

a) Background of Initiative:

Governor Hogan created this Task Force on January 3 and it has been tasked with conducting regional meetings to allow citizens the chance to discuss opportunities in their regions. Our Objective is to explain what the program is and isn't. This program is market-driven. The State plans to be the last money in.

b) Department of Housing and Community Development Presentation- Secretary Holt:

- The State is a financial incentive for private sector to get involved. MD has expressed interest that our money can be invested into tangible assets.

- The MD OZ Information Exchange – 300 hits a day, with 2-3 projects uploaded into the system each day
- There is already significant investment in Maryland based business that we are going to invest serious capital to make the most of OZs – this is a mechanism to entice outside investors

c) Legislative Overview – Chris Shank:

More Opportunities for Marylanders Act 2019 (HB 150/SB 170) - builds on More Jobs for Marylanders. Extends certain benefits to businesses that locate or expand in OZs in the State and extends the termination date of the Program.

Workforce Initiative Program - Maryland's nationally recognized EARN workforce development grant program will now focus directly on the state's 149 Opportunity Zones with a new investment of \$3 million to establish "Opportunity Works" – a job training program specifically for businesses that are located in Opportunity Zones. Through Opportunity Works, the Maryland Department of Labor will issue competitive grants for qualified businesses to provide workforce training programs that result in a credential or identifiable skill, or job readiness and skill training.

Governor's Budget included \$16 M for TEDCO - to create the Maryland Technology Infrastructure Fund. This transformative new fund will be housed and staffed through Maryland's innovation arm - Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), an independent governing board tasked with creating a long-term strategic vision and implementation plan to leverage more than \$500 million in planned investment over the next decade.

d) Task Force Members Description of Role in OZ:

DHCD and Commerce are the lead agencies for Opportunity Zones

Maryland Association Community College - 16 Colleges across the state puts us in the prime position to help in workforce training. Training those individuals that are interested and businesses that are looking for employees.

Maryland Economic Development Corporation - IT and cyber marketplace collaborate with Universities which caused infrastructure legislations.

Properties across state are in OZ one in Calvert Co. one from Indian Head creating their own OZ funding to create their business.

Frostburg – particular project OZ won't work but are some opportunities at Frostburg for potential business development

Maryland State Department of Education - works with a wide variety of organizations. MSDE can utilize these relationships with businesses, public & private partners to spread information and knowledge.

Maryland Department Of Transportation - can help to identify infrastructure requirements and needs surrounding projects in OZs and leading into OZs. MDOT also has grants and federal dollars that could be accessed for qualifying projects.

Department of Labor Licensing and Regulations - EARN Maryland is a new state-funded, competitive workforce development grant program that is industry-led, regional in focus, and a proven strategy for helping businesses cultivate the skilled workforce they need to compete. It is flexible and innovative, designed to ensure that Maryland employers have the talent they need to compete and grow in an ever-changing 21st century economy. Work with all partners and help with workforce development. Make sure that employees are being trained with the correct skills in the needed areas to help ensure employment.

Maryland Department of Planning - Census data gives the state information on: housing; employment data; schools; populations; etc and MDP is able to do comprehensive analysis of the data. We can figure how many people have degrees in certain areas. Data center has lots of opportunities to help. Master plans- zoning- all familiar to our regional planners- steps to make portions of OZ more accessible. Information on priority funding areas. MHT- rehabilitation tax credit 9 billion dollar program

Department Human Services - Local department of social services has presence in all counties of MD and we are working with local level. 2 gen initiative - goal at some point to combine and merge both and 2 Gen can take advantage of OZ program. Work with DLLR combined plan dedicated for training and development of OZ projects

Maryland Stadium Authority - MSA currently oversees projects such as 21st Century School Buildings Program and Project C.O.R.E. Help identify where dollars can be leveraged and produce the best outcomes.

University System of Maryland -16 facilities across state- taking operational control at Southern MD College. Community investment and development are already priorities of the system. Investments in the more promising startups. 13 schools are already in OZ.

Maryland Association of Counties - 149 OZ identified in MD. Counties have been taking a look at where they are and align with incentives that are there on the local level. Position counties and projects to bring investments this is a competition for Counties. Noted* project in P.G. district that has flat lined several times but these opportunity incentives are bringing it back

e) Secretary Holt – Challenges:

- Perception of possible community displacement and urban renewal – educate communities on the significance of generation wealth and possible home ownership (how to keep and pass wealth on)
- Working with locals
- Education and information is key. Need to clearly display what the OZ program is intended to do and what it is not intended to do.

IV. Next Meeting

Truitt Community Center, 319 Truitt Street, Salisbury MD 21804
March 14, 2019
4:30PM

V. Adjournment

Lieutenant Governor Rutherford adjourned the meeting at 12:00PM.
Minutes submitted by: Courtney Highsmith
Minutes approved by: